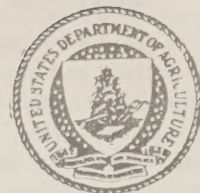
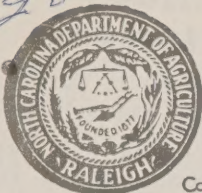




Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 161

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 15, 1954

## JUNE 1 CROP OUTLOOK VARIABLE

Rainfall was not heavy during the month of May, but amounts were adequate to maintain good soil moisture conditions. Temperatures were unseasonably cool until the last week of the month when a general rise in temperature readings began to occur. We have had a favorable spring season from the standpoint of moisture supplies but a quite unfavorable spring from the standpoint of temperatures.

Spring-planted crops were put in the ground without undue difficulty. Practically all the flue-cured tobacco crop has been transplanted by June 1. Considerable re-setting has been necessary to fill up the gaps which resulted from cool weather and disease. Growth has been slow and unusually widespread attacks of blue mold in the fields have caused considerable concern.

The corn crop has been set back by the cool weather and insect attacks and considerable replanting has been done. Some growers have plowed up and completely re-seeded their corn acreage. Cut worms have been unusually active in some Eastern localities.

The cotton crop has suffered severely as a result of the unusually low temperatures during May. Re-planting requirements have been heavy generally throughout the cotton producing area. With the lateness of the season now, some shifts to other crops may be necessary. Insect damage is heavier than usual in some sections. Stands are very poor in fields which were chopped early. Others are delaying chopping until full effect of the cool weather is known.

Peanut planting was about completed by June 1 but the crop is not up to par

(See "OUTLOOK", Page 2)

## WHEAT FORECAST LOWERED

Reports from Tar Heel wheat producers as of June 1 point to a slight decline in 1954 wheat prospects, compared with the forecast a month earlier. Based on the June 1 reports, a 1954 wheat crop of 6,636,000 bushels is expected. Such a crop would be about 2 percent below the May 1 estimate and 19 percent less than the 8,200,000 bushels produced in 1953. The yield per acre is expected to average 21.0 bushels, according to the June 1 report. This is a drop of a half bushel from May 1 prospects, but a half bushel above the 1952 average and only 2 bushels short of the all-time high of 23 bushels per acre. Strong winds and heavy showers around May 15 caused considerable lodging in some areas, hurting yield prospects. Army worms are also doing some damage in scattered sections.

For the Nation, winter wheat production in 1954 is forecast at 740 million bushels, 33 million bushels more than on May 1. This compares with 878 million bushels produced last year and average production of 833 million bushels. The 1954 production of all wheat is forecast at one billion bushels. This compares with nearly 1.2 billion bushels produced last year and average production during the 1943-52 period of slightly over 1.1 billion bushels.

## MILK FLOW IN N. C. REACHES ALL-TIME MONTHLY HIGH

Estimated milk production on farms in North Carolina totaled 173 million pounds during May -- the highest monthly production ever recorded in the Tar

(See "MILK", Page 2)



## OUTLOOK *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

due to heavy rains immediately following planting and cool temperatures in the commercial counties.

Small grain was damaged to some extent by high winds and heavy showers around mid-May. These crops are badly lodged in some sections. Army worms are causing damage in some areas. Some oats which were originally intended for grain have been diverted to hay due to serious lodging. Smut seems to be more serious in barley than a year ago.

Small grain hay harvest was about over by the end of May and the first cutting of alfalfa had been housed with generally good yields but somewhat low quality. Spittle bugs and army worms are present in some Piedmont areas, but damage done has not been extensive.

Limited harvesting of the early Irish potato crop began during the last week of May, but generally speaking potatoes have been slow in maturing. Heavy digging of the Eastern commercial crop got underway during the second week of June.

## MILK *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

Heel State. Following a normal seasonal pattern, production during May registered an increase of 12 million pounds over the 161-million pound flow of the previous month. Further comparisons show that production during May of this year was 14 million pounds above that of May 1953 and 30 million pounds above the 1943-52 average for the month.

There was an estimated 394,000 milk cows in herds in the State during May. This was also the highest of record for the month, comparing with 381,000 cows in herds during May 1953.

Concentrates fed (grains, mill-feeds and other concentrates) per milk cow in herds kept by Tar Heel reporters on June 1 averaged 4.6 pounds as compared to 4.1 pounds a year earlier and the 1944-53 June 1 average of 3.9 pounds.

Production of milk on United States farms during May is estimated at 13 billion pounds -- 4 percent above last year and 7 percent above the average May output in 1943-52.

## EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY LOWER

Production of eggs in North Carolina during May 1954 amounted to 133 million -- 6 percent below the 141 million laid during April but 4 percent above the 128 million laid during May of last year. The drop of 8 million in production from the April level followed the normal seasonal pattern.

The average number of layers on hand in the State during May is estimated at 7,512,000 or about 2 percent less than the 7,634,000 during May 1953.

Farm flocks in the Nation laid 6 billion eggs in May -- 4 percent more than in May last year, but 1 percent below the 1943-52 average production. Egg production was above a year ago in all regions of the country.

## N. C. PEAR CROP SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

The N. C. 1954 pear crop is forecast at 130,000 bushels. This is 4,000 bushels less than the 1953 crop, but is 28,000 bushels or 18 percent less than the 10-year average crop of 158,000 bushels.

A U. S. pear crop of 29,153,000 bushels is in prospect for 1954. This is slightly above the 1953 crop but 4 percent below average.

## ICE CREAM PRODUCTION UP 7 PERCENT IN 1953

The preliminary summary of reports from all establishments in North Carolina making ice cream indicate about 14,278,000 gallons of this product manufactured in the State during 1953. This is nearly 7 percent above the 13,307,000 gallons manufactured in the State during 1952, and is the largest output since 1948 when 14,431,000 gallons were made.

North Carolina Concerns manufacturing butter indicate a total of 1,813,000 pounds (preliminary) produced during 1953, compared with 1,264,000 pounds manufactured in 1952.



## TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS GOOD

**IRISH POTATOES:** Reports from North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato growers, as of June 1, indicate production will total 3,300,000 bushels. This production, if realized, will mean an average yield of 220 bushels per acre from the State's 15,000 acres of commercial potatoes. Cool weather and adequate moisture supplies during May improved prospective yields considerably.

In 1953 there were 3,705,000 bushels produced in the State from 19,500 acres, giving an average yield of 190 bushels per acre.

Total U. S. production of the late Spring commercial early Irish potatoes is estimated at 35,443,000 bushels -- 25 percent less than in 1953 and 11 percent less than the 10-year average. Indicated production is down from last season in all of the important producing States.

**SNAP BEANS:** North Carolina's late Spring SNAP BEAN crop for fresh market is currently estimated at 518,000 bushels. If such a quantity is harvested, it will be the largest production since 1939 when 578,000 bushels were marketed.

**CABBAGE:** Reports from Tar Heel CABBAGE growers, as of June 1, indicate production from the State's 2,200 acres of late Spring cabbage is 15,400 tons, with an average yield of 7.0 tons per acre expected. If such a yield is realized, it will be the highest of record since 1938 when the average yield was 8.0 tons. Last year's production totaled 14,300 tons from 2,200 acres for an average yield of 6.5 tons.

**CANTALOUPE:** A preliminary estimate of CANTALOUPE acreage for North Carolina shows 4,700 acres for 1954 -- 4 percent above the 4,500 acres harvested in 1953. June 1 condition reports indicate a production of 212,000 crates -- a yield of 45 crates per acre. Production last year was 202,000 crates with an average yield of 45 crates per acre.

**CUCUMBERS:** June 1 condition reports on North Carolina's fresh market CUCUMBER crop point to a total production of 486,000 bushels or an average yield of 90 bushels per acre from 5,400 acres. The 1953 production was 441,000 bushels from 4,900 acres for an average yield of 90 bushels.

**SWEET CORN:** Production of 1954 SWEET CORN in North Carolina is estimated at 680,000 units (5 doz. ears), the same as last year's output.

**GREEN PEPPERS:** Reports from North Carolina growers indicate 5,100 acres of GREEN PEPPERS will be harvested this year -- the largest acreage of record for the State. June 1 condition reports point to a production of 765,000 bushels. Last year, 656,000 bushels were produced.

**STRAWBERRIES:** Harvest of the North Carolina STRAWBERRY crop was practically complete by June 1. Production from the State's 1,600 acres is estimated at 136,000 crates (24-qt.) the lowest of record. This year's production compares with 153,000 crates produced last year.

**TOMATOES:** North Carolina's early summer TOMATO crop is currently estimated at 3,100 acres. Conditions, as of June 1, indicate a production of 264,000 bushels. This compares with last year's production of 189,000 bushels.

**WATERMELONS:** According to reports from growers 10,500 acres of WATERMELONS will be available for harvest in North Carolina this year. Condition reports as of June 1 indicate a total production of 2,205,000 melons. Last year, 2,200,000 melons were produced on 10,000 acres.

## THE WOOL SITUATION

Wool prices are likely to continue relatively stable over the next few months at levels about the same as or slightly below a year earlier. Prices for most fine and half-blood wools probably will remain above loan rates during the next few months, while those of three-eighths blood and lower wools are likely to continue at or slightly below.

Prices received by growers for 1953 clip shorn wool averaged 54.7 cents per pound, slightly higher than the year before and slightly above the national average support level. Prices received for the 1954 clip (April 1954-March 1955) probably will average about the same as or close to those of last season. The minimum national average support price to the grower for the 1954 clip was announced last December as 52.1 cents per pound.



## N. C. PEACH PROSPECTS BELOW LAST YEAR, U. S. CROP LARGER

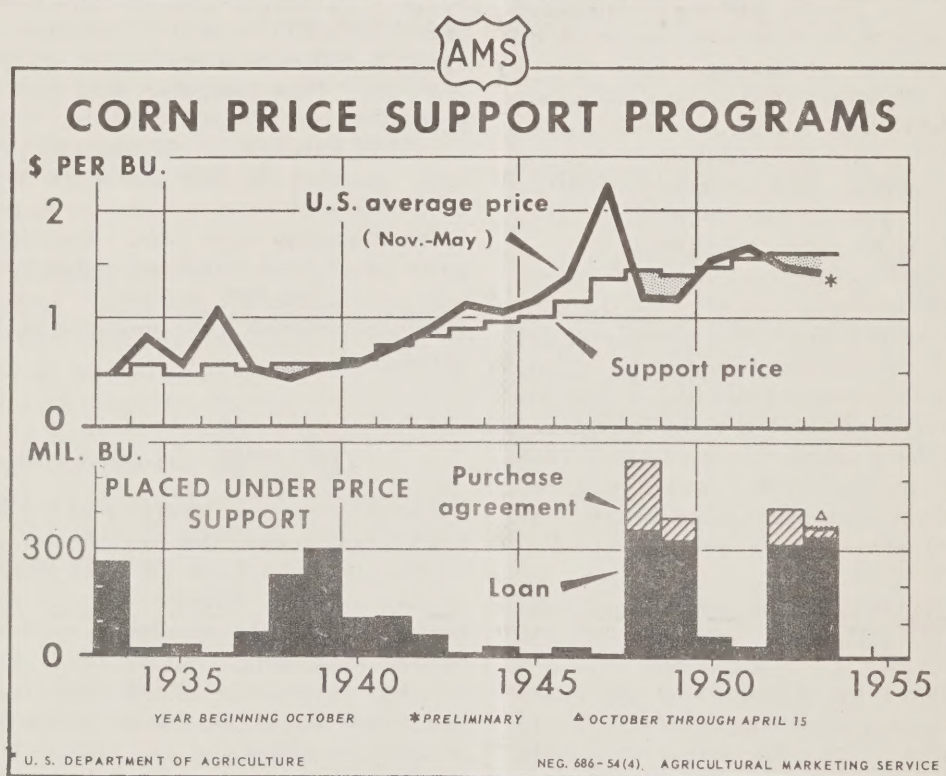
June 1 condition reports from growers throughout North Carolina indicate a 1954 peach crop of 1,050,000 bushels. This is 11 percent less than the 1953 crop of 1,180,000 bushels and 36 percent less than the 10-year (1943-52) average production of 1,649,000 bushels.

A U. S. crop of 67,318,000 bushels is in prospect for 1954, four percent greater than last year and one percent above the 1943-52 average. Prospects are less favorable in the 10 southern States than elsewhere, but have shown improvement over the May 1 forecast. The crop for the 10 southern States is estimated at 10,756,000 bushels.

## JUNE 1 PEACH CROP ESTIMATES

STATE	AVERAGE 1943-52	1953	INDICATED 1954
<i>THOUSAND BUSHELS</i>			
N. CAROLINA	1,649	1,180	1,050
S. CAROLINA	3,279	3,536	3,550
GEORGIA	3,433	3,312	3,300
FLORIDA	50	18	11
ALABAMA	741	1,000	1,130
MISSISSIPPI	552	608	260
ARKANSAS	1,782	1,836 <sup>1/</sup>	1,160
LOUISIANA	148	179	45
OKLAHOMA	382	402	85
TEXAS	1,027	1,183	165
10 STATES	13,043	13,254	10,756

<sup>1/</sup> 110 thousand bushels unharvested on account of economic conditions.



The average price received for corn has been below the national average support level since the fall of 1952. As was the case in the immediate prewar years and in 1948 and 1949, large quantities of corn are again going under price support. About 310 million bushels of 1952 corn were placed under loan and 108 million bushels under purchase agreement. Through April 15 of the

October-May loan period for 1953 corn, farmers had placed 366 million bushels of 1953 corn under price support, which was 60 million bushels more than in the same period of 1952-53. A major part of the record carryover of 950 million bushels of corn in prospect for October 1, 1954, is expected to be under loan or owned by CCC.



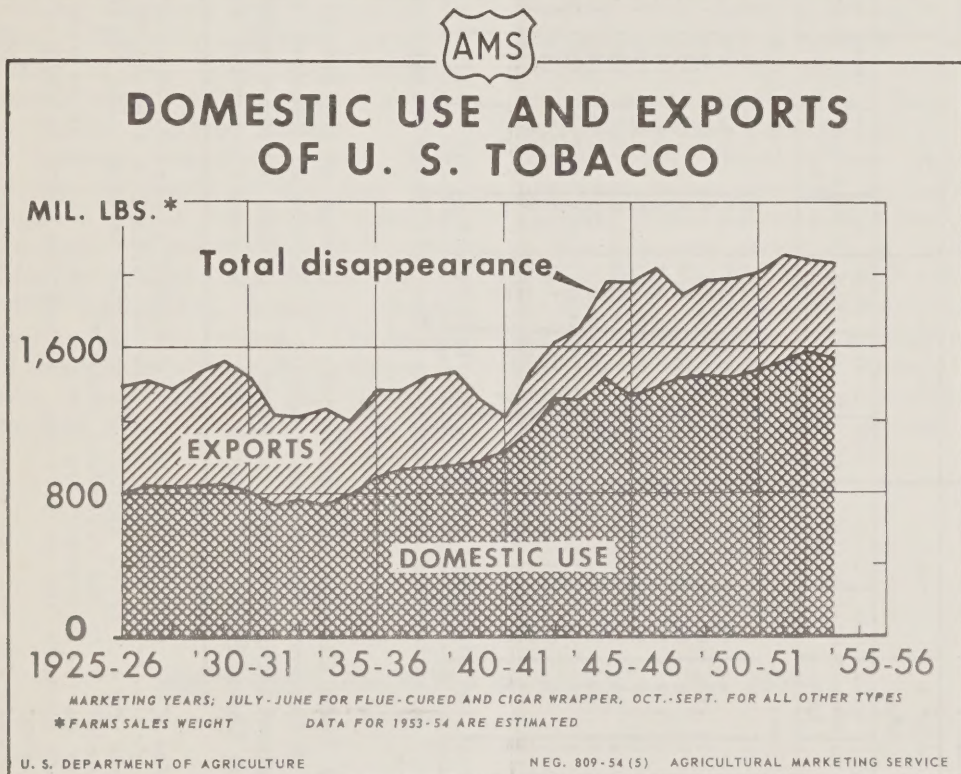
## BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS SET NEW RECORD FOR MAY

Broiler chick placements in the Central-Western Commercial Broiler Areas of North Carolina reached an all-time high last month, with hatcheries and dealers serving these areas reporting a total of 5,327,000 chicks placed during the month of May. This compares with a total of 5,061,000 (revised) chicks placed during April - an increase of 5 percent - and with 4,906,000 during May 1953 - an increase of 9 percent.

Eggs set by these hatcheries totaled

8,455,000 during May, a decline of 2 percent from settings for the month of April, but 27 percent above the number placed in incubators during May, 1953.

North Carolina producers received an average price of 23 cents per pound for birds marketed at Central Markets during May. This compares with an average of 24-25 cents during the month of April and with a 26-cent average during May last year.



The 1953-54 domestic use plus exports for all types of tobacco produced in this country is expected to total about 2,060 million pounds (farm-sales weight) -- 1 percent less than in 1952-53. Exports are likely to be a little larger than in 1952-53 but domestic use is estimated to be smaller, mainly attributable to a little less use in cigarette and smoking tobacco manufacture.

Domestic consumption of tobacco increased sharply during World War II and has stayed well above prewar. Exports have accounted for a smaller proportion of total disappearance, although in the recent 5 years, they averaged 14 percent above prewar. In the past quarter century, disappearances of cigarette types of tobacco trended steadily upward, but substantial declines occurred in the fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos.



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER BY MONTHS DURING 1953  
IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED STATES 1/

MONTH	NORTH CAROLINA						UNITED STATES														
	CATTLE		CALVES		SHEEP & LAMBS		HOGS		CATTLE			CALVES			SHEEP & LAMBS			HOGS			
	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	NO. LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	BEEF PROD. LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	VEAL PROD. LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	LAMB-MUTTON LBS.	NO. HEAD	LIVE-WEIGHT LBS.	PORK/PROD. LBS.	LBS.. LARD	
--THOUSANDS--																					
JAN.	8.8	6,982	3.5	618	0.1	7	71.0	14,769	1.8	1,698	9.26	.8	165	91	1.4	140	67	7.8	1,841	1,029	270
FEB.	7.2	5,920	3.1	585	-	-	65.0	13,632	1.6	1,532	8.49	.7	143	80	1.2	120	57	5.8	1,340	759	190
MARCH	8.6	6,801	4.1	673	0.1	17	65.0	13,751	1.7	1,676	9.31	.9	167	94	1.3	132	63	6.2	1,418	809	194
APRIL	8.6	6,744	4.4	725	0.1	9	62.0	12,950	1.9	1,765	9.89	.9	182	102	1.2	121	58	5.5	1,254	714	174
MAY	8.2	6,392	4.1	690	0.1	9	53.0	11,064	1.8	1,715	9.61	.9	191	107	1.1	108	52	4.5	1,088	619	150
JUNE	9.8	7,543	4.8	796	0.1	9	53.0	11,376	1.9	1,797	9.99	1.0	228	128	1.2	106	50	4.4	1,128	644	150
JULY	11.9	9,179	5.0	892	0.3	28	51.0	10,265	2.0	1,876	1,034	1.0	247	138	1.3	113	54	4.1	1,042	597	140
AUG.	12.4	9,722	5.3	1,020	0.3	22	51.0	10,150	2.2	1,848	1,007	1.0	255	142	1.3	119	55	4.3	1,001	582	126
SEPT.	15.0	11,495	5.9	1,052	0.2	15	56.0	10,958	2.2	2,031	1,085	1.1	276	152	1.6	137	64	5.1	1,131	664	139
OCT.	14.0	10,903	5.1	872	0.1	9	60.0	12,004	2.4	2,172	1,144	1.3	296	162	1.7	158	73	6.1	1,364	793	174
NOV.	11.8	8,865	4.4	814	0.1	8	58.0	11,824	2.1	1,964	1,037	1.1	243	133	1.3	124	58	6.6	1,543	888	207
DEC.	9.8	7,479	4.3	801	0.1	7	66.0	13,512	2.2	2,044	1,093	1.0	225	122	1.4	134	64	6.5	1,523	873	208
YEAR	126.1	98,025	54.0	9,538	1.6	140	711.0	146,255	23.6	22,118	12,055	11.7	2,618	1,451	16.0	1,512	715	66.9	15,673	8,971	2,122

1/ Includes Slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail Slaughter; excludes farm Slaughter.

2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat.  
3/ Includes rendered pork fat.

The table above presents, for North Carolina and the United States, revised monthly estimates of livestock slaughtered in commercial plants during 1953. This report includes monthly estimates of meat and lard production for the United States and monthly es-

estimates of the number of head and the total liveweight of each species of livestock slaughtered in North Carolina. These estimates include slaughter in Federally inspected plants and in other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

**MEAT ANIMAL SITUATION:** The fact that mandatory price supports are ill-adapted to meat animals has been recognized by Secretaries of Agriculture for years. Price assistance to livestock producers through surplus removal programs is more practical and feasible than direct price support at specific levels. The present law provides for such type of action to deal with the problems peculiar to the livestock industry.

The new program proposes to continue present legislation. This legislation permits purchases of meat to help bolster prices to farmers when livestock markets are in distress, as was the case in 1953 with a combination of drought and a record number of beef cattle on farms.

The Department purchased about 250 million pounds of beef (equivalent to 865,000 head of cattle) to stabilize beef cattle prices in the summer and fall of 1953. The beef was distributed to the National School Lunch program and to foreign outlets. One way in which the proposed new farm program will have a beneficial effect for livestock producers is by adjusting price support of feed grains to the supply. The result should be a better relationship between prices farmers pay for feed and prices they receive for livestock.



## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MAY, 1954

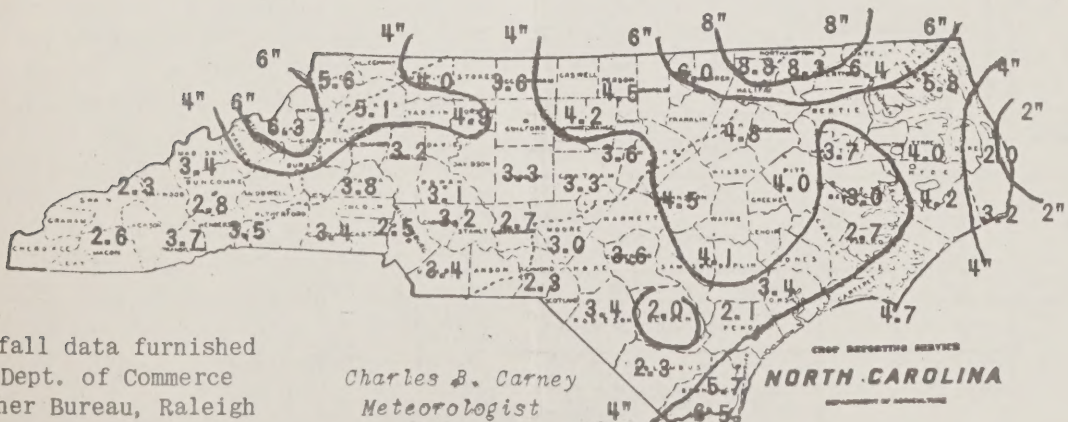
May weather in North Carolina was uncommonly winter-like, contrasting sharply with both April of this year and May of 1953. Not only were temperatures unusually low, but the movement of low pressure areas and weather fronts through the eastern United States was such as to produce more cloudiness and severe local storms than usual. Outstanding among the storm periods was that of May 20, when low pressure formed on a cool weather front which was passing across the State. Heavy falls of hail were reported that afternoon from numerous areas of North Carolina, some of it piling up in drifts necessitating removal from highways by machinery. The only extended period of fair weather in May immediately followed that storm, when high pressure settled over the Middle Atlantic States.

The average temperature over North Carolina for the month of May was some four degrees below long-term averages for the month. In some areas it was the coldest May of record --the records extend back to 1887-- following, strangely enough, the warmest April of record. The result was that in some localities May was colder than April, a situation that has never before happened since weather records were

begun. The only periods during May when temperatures were generally above normal were at the beginning and at the end of the month. On these few days afternoon temperatures generally reached the middle eighties, while early morning lowest readings were mostly in the sixties. During the cooler part of the month daily afternoon high temperatures were mostly in the sixties, while some morning low readings dropped in the thirties. Frost damage, however, was confined to the western half of the State.

Rainfall amounts were extremely variable over North Carolina during May, ranging from more than eight inches in the northern interior Coastal Plain to two inches in the south of the same section, and along the outer banks. Rain was more uniform over the western half of the State, being mostly three to four inches. The heaviest rains over the northern interior Coastal Plain occurred in connection with a low pressure storm which formed along a cool front passing through North Carolina on the 20th. This same storm caused widespread hail scattered over nearly all general areas of the State, some of the hail being extremely heavy, accumulating several inches deep on the ground.

### NORTH CAROLINA--INCHES OF RAINFALL, MAY 1954



# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Agricultural Estimates Division  
*S. R. Newell, Director*

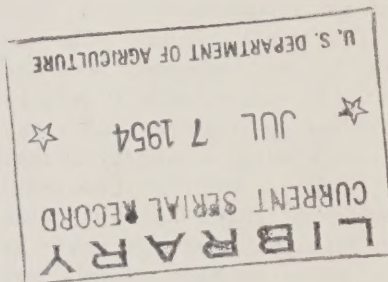
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## TONS OF ROUGHAGE FED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY DAIRY REPORTERS DURING OCTOBER-MAY WINTER FEEDING PERIOD

	HAY	SILAGE	OTHER ROUGHAGE	HAY EQUIVALENT OF ALL ROUGHAGE*
<b>N. C.</b>				
WINTER: 1952-53	1.8	1.3	0.2	2.3
WINTER: 1953-54	1.9	1.7	0.1	2.5
<b>U. S.</b>				
WINTER: 1952-53	2.2	1.9	0.1	2.9
WINTER: 1953-54	2.2	2.1	0.1	2.9

\* In computing total hay equivalent, 3 tons of silage or 2 tons of other roughage were considered equal to 1 ton of hay.

## SLIGHT DROP IN N. C. RYE PROSPECTS

North Carolina's 1954 rye crop is now estimated at 276,000 bushels. This estimate is based upon June 1 reports from North Carolina growers.

The June 1 forecast is 9,000 bushels below the estimate a month ago, but 44,000 bushels or 19 percent above the 232,000 bushels produced last year.

The yield per acre based on the June 1 estimate will average 14.5 bushels --- a half bushel drop from May 1, but 2.5 bushels above the 10-year 1942-51 average. Yield from the 1953 crop averaged 14.5 bushels per acre and in 1952 the average was 15.0 bushels.

For the United States, the 1954 rye crop is now forecast at 20,939,000 bushels, compared with last year's crop of 17,998,000 bushels.